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ALUMNI NEWS LETTER



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ALUMNI NEWS LETTER

The cycle of the college year is again drawing to its close, and with the approach of the Commencement season your Alma Mater sends you cordial greetings and an urgent invitation to attend the Commencement Exercises which will be as follows:

Sunday, June 18—Baccalaureate Address

Monday, June 19—Class Day and Conservatory
Commencement

Tuesday, June 20—Alumni Day

Wednesday, June 21—Commencement Day

Come and meet your former classmates and your old friends on the faculty. Come and revive the memories of the hallowed past and renew your interest in the old school, which was never more worthy of your loyal support.

The past year has been one of great prosperity and progress, and the future is bright with the promise of greater things yet to come. Among the many items of interest we are sending you a few of special significance and importance:—

ATTENDANCE

This year's record for attendance has never been equalled. Approximately seventeen hundred have been enrolled during the regular college year and nearly seven hundred attended the summer school of 1915. The total enrollment for the year, including extension students, is 3,384, an increase of 315. There is every evidence that the summer school of 1916 will be considerably larger than that of the preceding year.

ASSEMBLY

For many years, as you will recall, the limited capacity of Normal Hall made the assembling of the whole body of students and faculty impossible and the several classes met separately. The erection of the Frederic H. Pease Auditorium has brought about a radical and most desirable change. The entire college and faculty now meet in assembly at ten o'clock every Wednesday morning. It is an inspiring event and a strong influence for the quickening of college spirit and the unifying of the student body. The assembly program consists of music and an address given by some person of distinction from out of the city or by a member of the faculty.

LECTURE COURSE

The best education at minimum cost has always been the aim of the college. This year the following unrivalled course of lectures was offered to students:

Russell H. Conwell
Leland T. Powers
Maude Ballington Booth
Lincoln Wirt
Newell Dwight Hillis

Tickets to the entire course were sold at the nominal cost of twenty-five cents and it was made possible for the poorest boy or girl to hear some of America's greatest platform speakers.

BUILDING PLANS

Since the last News Letter was issued the state has bought from former President L. H. Jones the property used as residence by him and by other presidents of the college. It is expected that the house will be removed and that the new library will be erected there. The college had expected to continue the building program this year, but the indications now are that no new buildings will be begun till next year.

ALUMNI FIELD

At the reunion of alumni held in connection with the meeting of the State Teachers' Association, it was decided to coöperate with the Athletic Association of the college in the purchase of a new athletic field. This plan has been carried out and we are now in possession of a finely located plot of ground of about twelve acres, which, in recognition of the alumni's share in its purchase, will be known as Alumni Field.

EXTENSION WORK

Perhaps the most notable innovation of the year has been the introduction of extension and correspondence courses.

Four years ago, at the request of the teachers of Bay City, an extension course was established, a teacher from the college going weekly to Bay City. Bay City has maintained a class up to the present time. Two years ago Port Huron asked for extension work, and this year Saginaw and Flint have organized classes. Altogether two hundred twenty-five have been enrolled in extension courses this year in these four places.

Other cities are requesting courses for next year. The college believes that it can greatly serve its alumni and Michigan through extension courses. A bulletin on extension work will be issued later in the year.

THE MEN'S UNION

The Men's Union, organized two years ago, includes in its membership practically every man in the college and is admirably fulfilling its avowed purpose of bringing men into intimate touch with each other and the needs of the college. Several informal parties have been given at the gymnasium and the annual banquet was unusually successful. Steps are now being taken to acquaint high school

boys with the advantages offered here in order to increase the male membership of the college.

THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Both the young men's and the young women's organizations have been active and efficient. The Y. W. C. A. has a membership of five hundred and twenty and is supporting a general secretary. A campaign for funds last February resulted in securing \$1400 for running expenses.

STUDENTS' CLUBS

Various clubs have been organized by students in special lines of work, which have for their object not only the broadening of knowledge, but also the better acquaintance with each other of students pursuing the same interests. Among these clubs may be mentioned the Euclidean Society for students of mathematics, the Chemistry Club for the chemists, the History Club for students of history, and the Sodalitas Latina for specialists in Latin. The last organization has put on several Latin plays during the year.

THE LIBRARY

The library now contains about 42,000 volumes and is undoubtedly one of the best working libraries in the country. Besides the general library there are about twenty departmental libraries, each containing several hundred volumes. The old Conservatory building is now used as a circulating library for the Training School and a reference library for college students. The most pressing need of the General Library is more room. Every possible space is being utilized and the necessity for the prospective new library building is daily growing more apparent.

ORATORY AND DEBATE

This year has been notable for interest and success in public speaking. Five intercollegiate debates have been

held and of these three were won by the Normal College—a record probably as good as that of any other college in the state. In oratory we have participated in four intercollegiate contests with good ratings. In the state peace contest our orator—Harry D. Hubbard—took first place, giving him the honor of representing Michigan in the interstate peace contest at Decatur, Illinois. There he competed with orators from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, and again won first place. This victory made him the representative of the six states mentioned above in the national contest held at Lake Mohonk. There Mr. Hubbard met prize winners from other sections of the country and won third place. This is the greatest honor in oratory ever won by the Normal College.

ATHLETICS

The interest in athletics is strong and the future seems very bright. The number of men in school is steadily increasing. Teams are maintained in the following sports: football, soccer, basketball, indoor-track, baseball, outdoor-track, and tennis. Besides the first teams, reserve or second teams are organized and given a schedule of games. Class teams also are organized to get as many as possible actively engaged in physical recreation. The college is meeting in competition opponents of high caliber and recognized standing. The new gymnasium is one of the finest in the state and has recently been equipped with a large swimming pool, and new lockers and shower room facilities. Next year the new Alumni Field will be available, and there will be ample space for several teams to play at the same time.

Athletics are as popular among the young women as among the young men. Great enthusiasm was shown as usual at the annual Indoor Meet. This spring the interest has been keen in the tennis tournaments and in the con-

tests for the college "N" which girls may now win by performing a certain number of athletic feats.

NEW CLASSES

Classes in Social Form. Acquaintance with social forms and a correct deportment are as essential to success in teaching as professional training in academic subjects. Believing that such matters deserve more attention, the young women of the college, under the students' Self-Government Association, have organized classes in social form which are conducted by women of the faculty. Several hundred students have enrolled and the classes are proving very enjoyable and helpful.

Oral English. Another notable step which the college has taken is the formation of classes in oral English. The opportunity to cultivate a good colloquial style—a valuable asset to any teacher—is being eagerly embraced by many.

THE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

The Conservatory of Music continues to be a conspicuous factor in the life of the college. Its teachers are exceptionally talented and capable. The vocal department has been greatly strengthened by the appointment of Mr. Carl Lindegren, a pupil of Herbert Witherspoon, as head of the department.

The Normal Choir of 200 voices is well known for its splendid work. It was honored this year by invitation from two distinguished organizations in Detroit to sing under their auspices.

A rare honor was given the Conservatory when one of its teachers, Mrs. Georgia Richardson Baskerville, pianist, appeared as soloist with the celebrated Philadelphia orchestra. Miss Golda Connell, another of the faculty, has been elected to membership in the American Guild of Organists.

A bulletin on the Conservatory is soon to be issued. The alumni would render a service to the young people who desire to study music by recommending to them the Normal College Conservatory.

THE FACULTY

The work of the faculty in the various departments continues strong and progressive, and in this resides the chief element of our strength. Many members of our faculty are steadily productive and have won national reputation by their publications. Space forbids the enumeration of even the most important of those that have appeared during the past year. The following items of faculty news will be of interest to you:

The Department of Physical Education has been strengthened by the addition of two new men ranking as assistant and associate professor.

The Departments of History of Education and Philosophy, Pedagogy and Psychology have been amalgamated into a new department known as the Department of Education. The teachers remain the same and retain their former titles and official standing in the new department.

The Department of Modern Languages announces the resignation of Dr. Ida Fleischer, who has long been connected with its work. She will be succeeded by Miss Gretchen K. Lutz, now professor of French in Morning-side College, Iowa.

The Department of History has added Mrs. Bessie Leach Priddy to its force as assistant professor. Several new courses are announced, one of them by Professor D'Ooge on Roman Political Institutions. Professor Julia A. King is offering her usual courses in sociology during the fall and spring terms.

The Department of Physics is now offering special courses for girls to lay emphasis on those phases of the

subject that have to do with domestic science and the appliances of the home. A household laboratory is now being fitted out for practical experiments with heating, lighting and plumbing apparatus, ventilation, cooking devices, and everything belonging to household equipment. The practical value of such a course is self evident.

DEMAND FOR TEACHERS

The demand for teachers is always far beyond our supply, and, as more and more of our pupils are remaining three and four years for our degree courses, the positions and salaries secured are more and more desirable. We could easily place twice as many graduates every year, if we had them. There can be no stronger proof of the efficiency of the college and the value of its contribution to the educational forces of the state.

And now we conclude with the invitation with which we began: **Come and visit us at Commencement.** There will be much to interest you. It is worth the journey just to see the graduating classes marching in caps and gowns, a custom begun last year. A procession of six hundred people in academic costume is an imposing sight. But whether you come or not, don't forget the Normal, your Alma Mater. She is counting on your loyalty. And if you know some ambitious boy or girl with slender means who wishes to become a teacher, point the way to Ypsilanti and mention the result of the recent investigation which showed that the average cost of a year's schooling here is only two hundred and twenty-five dollars. Where else will one find such opportunities at such low expense!

This letter is being mailed to every former student whose address is known to us. If you hear of any who fail to receive it, please send us names and addresses. We are anxious to correct and add to our list.



